

THE SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS, 1904.

The following Meetings have been arranged for the remainder of the current Session (1904).

April 18th. E. WESTERMARCK, Ph.D. (Author of "History of Human Marriage," &c.)
 "WOMAN IN EARLY CIVILISATION."

* Right Hon. JAMES BRYCE, M.P., in the Chair.

* May 16th. FRANCIS GALTON, F.R.S.

"EUGENICS: ITS DEFINITION, SCOPE & AIMS."

Both the above Meetings (April 18th and May 16th) to be held at 5 p.m. at the School of Economics and Political Science (London University), Clare Market, W.C.

* June 20th. E. DURKHEIM (Professor in the University of Paris, Editor of the *Année Sociologique*); and V. BRANFORD, M.A.

"SOCIOLOGY AND THE SOCIAL SCIENCES."

* July 18th. PATRICK GEDDES, F.R.S.E.,

"CIVICS: AS APPLIED SOCIOLOGY."

The above two Meetings (June 20th and July 18th) to be held at 5 p.m. at the Rooms of the Royal Statistical Society, 9 Adelphi Terrace, W.C.

* These will be short Papers, intended to open a discussion, in which several well-known authorities have promised to take part.

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ORIGIN OF THE SOCIETY.

As a result of inquiries made in London and elsewhere, and extending over fully twelve months, the present time was deemed ripe for the formation of a Society to promote scientific studies in Sociology.

After an informal preliminary meeting in May, at which the Rt. Hon. James Bryce, M.P., presided, a conference was held on June 29, 1903, by permission, in the rooms of the Royal Statistical Society, and it was unanimously resolved to proceed with the formation of a Sociological Society, and arrangements were made for carrying out this resolution.

OBJECTS AND PROGRAMME OF THE SOCIETY.

The aims of the Sociological Society are scientific, educational and practical. The Society seeks to promote investigation, and to advance education in the Social Sciences in their various aspects and applications. It aims at affording a common ground on which workers from all fields and schools concerned with social phenomena may meet—geographer and naturalist, anthropologist and archæologist, historian and economist, psychologist and moralist ; as also physician and alienist, criminologist and jurist, hygienist and educationist, philanthropist and social reformer, politician and cleric.

The Society will prosecute its work by means customary to an efficiently organized learned society, namely, Meetings for Papers and Discussions, the collection of relevant periodical and book literature, and, at as early an opportunity as possible, the publication of a journal. The Society is endeavouring to raise a fund of about £5,000 for a Reference Library of Sociology and for the issue of scientific publications, including a Journal of Sociology. Numerous donations have already been made towards this Fund, and others are being sought.

It has been suggested that an endeavour should be made to hold meetings for Papers and Discussion in joint conference with those societies which deal with special aspects of social phenomena.

While many foreign Universities have established Chairs and Lectureships in Sociology, the subject as such, has, up to the present, been unrepresented in the Universities of this country. The recent gift of £1,000 to London University by one of the founders of the Sociological Society towards establishing courses in Sociology will, it may be hoped, be a means of reinforcing the attempts which the Society will make to awaken interest in Sociological studies in the Universities and Colleges of this country.

Various attempts have been made to apply systematically to the development of Sociology those organized instruments of research (Observatory, Laboratory, Museum, etc.) which have so effectively aided the progress of the physical and natural sciences. It will be one of the objects of the Sociological Society to investigate such initiatives as those of the Musée Sociale in Paris, the Institut de Sociologie in Brussels, the Outlook Tower in Edinburgh, and the Laboratory of Sociology in Palermo. The Society will examine into the effectiveness of such apparatus and institutions for Research, and, if advisable, will advocate and encourage the development of these and the promotion of similar initiatives elsewhere.

EXPRESSIONS OF APPROVAL.

From a large number of letters received, expressing approval of the project, the following extracts may be cited:—

From Rt. Hon. A. J. BALFOUR, M.P.

"I welcome any attempt to organise Sociological investigations on a strictly scientific basis. I understand this to be the object of the proposed Society, and, if so, I heartily wish it success."

From the late Professor BAIN.

"I beg to say that the object of the Society has my cordial approval. My published writings sufficiently testify to the interest I have long felt in the subject."

From Professor BASTABLE (Professor of Economics, Trinity College, Dublin).

"I have long felt the need of such a Society. If in any way I can further the movement you are initiating I shall be happy to do so."

From the Rev. A. CALDECOTT (Professor of Logic and Philosophy, King's College, and Chairman of the Board of Philosophical Studies in the University of London).

"If a comprehensive scope is agreed upon, I anticipate great advantage from a Society which would associate together many of us who meet too seldom, although we are occupied only in different plots of the same great field."

From F. HOWARD COLLINS (Author of "Epitome of the Synthetic Philosophy of Herbert Spencer").

"I write to wish you every success in a movement which has, I think, potentialities of great importance and value as treating of matters which have so far received but little organised effort for their development."

From the Rev. Professor FLINT (Author of the "History of Philosophy of History," &c.).

"I regard the formation of such a Society as very desirable, and the want of one with an appropriate literary organ as a very serious defect."

From the Rev. A. M. FAIRBAIRN (Principal, Mansfield College, Oxford).

"My sympathies are all with you in the study of Sociology."

From Mr. FRANCIS GALTON.

"It gives me pleasure to send a small donation of £5 towards the cost of the preliminary stages in organising the Sociological Society."

From T. C. HORSFALL (President of Manchester Art Museum and University Settlement; President of Manchester and Salford Association for the Improvement of the Homes and Surroundings of the People).

"I am extremely glad to learn that it is probable that a Sociological Society will be formed."

From E. RAY LANCASTER (Director, Natural History Department, British Museum).

"I regret I have not the time to assist in your Society (Sociological), with the objects of which I strongly sympathise."

From Professor J. S. MACKENZIE (Professor of Philosophy, University College, Cardiff).

"I shall cordially do all that I can to help the movement."

From J. BASS MULLINGER, M.A. (Lecturer in History, St. John's College, Cambridge).

"I consider that, if carried into accomplishment, the projected Society will afford most valuable aid to that more scientific study and treatment of History which some of us, at least, are doing our best at Cambridge to bring about."

From the BISHOP OF ROCHESTER.

"There can be no doubt about the importance of the future that lies before the study of Sociology. From the names, your Society seems to have the prospect of encouraging it in an open-minded and unprejudiced manner, and I am very glad to welcome it."

From the Hon. BERTRAND RUSSELL (author of "Principles of Mathematics," etc.).

"I am strongly in favour of the objects of the proposed Society, particularly of the scientific study of Sociology."

From Mrs. HUMPHREY WARD.

"I am much interested in the foundation of the Sociological Society, and wish it all success. I enclose a donation of £1 1s."

From Professor TÖNNIES (of the University of Kiel).

"It is with considerable satisfaction that I hear of the formation of a Sociological Society in England, for I have long been waiting for a symptom of a rise of the modern intellectual movement in that direction, especially in your country, which has done so much to promote and to develop it. I look with the greatest interest upon what Mr. Oscar Browning has said and communicated as a posthumous encouragement to your Society from the late Sir J. Seeley."

From Professor DURKHEIM (Editor of "L'Année Sociologique," and Professor in the University of Paris).

"It is with the greatest sympathy that I send my adhesion to the Sociological Society, about the formation of which you have informed me. If, as you propose to do, you succeed in grouping and bringing into relationship all serious workers—that is to say all those who desire to extricate Sociology from the vague and literary generalities where it still too often halts, in order to devote themselves to definite and productive problems—you will render signal service to our Science, and it is the duty of every one to try and help you to the utmost."

From Dr. WESTERMARCK (author of "The History of Marriage," &c.).

"I am extremely glad to hear of the proposal to form a Sociological Society, being sure that an English Society for the promotion of scientific and philosophical studies in Sociology will do excellent service to the new science."

From I. ZANGWILL.

"I am fully convinced of the need of a Sociological Society."

CONDITIONS OF MEMBERSHIP.

Membership of the Society is open to all who are interested in the promotion of the scientific study of social phenomena.

The rate of subscription has been fixed at £1 1s. per annum.

The payment for life membership is £10 10s.

After the list of Original Members is closed, election to Membership will be made subject to the approval of the Council.

Libraries and other Corporate Bodies are admissable as members.

REPORT OF CONFERENCE.

On application to the Secretary of the Society, 5, Old Queen Street, Westminster, S.W., a pamphlet may be obtained giving a detailed account of the origin, purpose, programme and constitution of the Society, and a full Report of the Speeches at the Conference.

FORM OF APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP.

To the SECRETARY,
SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY,
5, OLD QUEEN STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.

Please enrol my name as an Original Member of the Sociological Society.

I enclose:

Cheque
P.O.
Banker's Order } *for*.....

being amount of Subscription for One Year (or for Life Membership), and including..... as a Donation to the Library and Publication Fund.

Name.....

Occupation or Designation.....

Address.....

Date.....